

PATENT
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Certificate of Mailing: Date of Deposit: November 24, 2004

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Kim LaSelva
Printed name of person mailing correspondence

Kim LaSelva
Signature of person mailing correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jeffrey A. Hubbell et al. Art Unit: 1615
Serial No.: 09/559,984 Examiner: Susan T. Tran
Filed: April 26, 2000 Customer No.: 21559
Title: IN SITU FORMING HYDROGELS

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

In reply to the Notice of Allowance that was mailed in connection with the above-captioned case on November 1, 2004 and having confirmation number 1784, enclosed are:

A completed fee transmittal form PTOL-85;

A check for \$715.00 to cover the issue fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.18(a) of \$685.00, and the patent copy fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.19(a)(1)(i) of \$30.00 for ten patent copies and

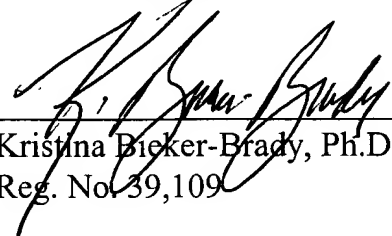
Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

If there are any other charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account

No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 24, 2004



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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In reply to the Notice of Allowability included with the Notice of Allowance mailed November 1, 2004, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the teachings of the prior art.

The Office states, "The cited references do not teach a polymer comprising a water-soluble polymer domain with at least two hydrophobic interacting groups attached thereto." Applicants agree that the Parker reference does not teach such a polymer. Applicants arguments regarding the Harmer reference, however, note that it does not teach a polymer comprising a water-soluble polymer domain with at least two

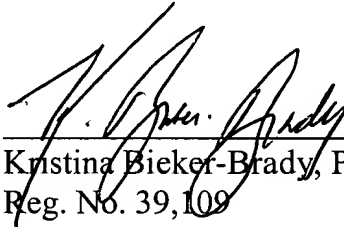
hydrophobic interacting groups attached thereto, wherein said hydrophobic interacting groups bind strongly to each other in an interchain manner to form a hydrogel under physiological conditions.

Furthermore, the Office states that "the cited references teaches [sic] random copolymer that includes less than or equal to 10% of a highly water-soluble non-fluorinated monomer, making the polymers water repellant." Applicants note that this characterization is only applicable to the Parker reference.

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